

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS TO ASSIST THE CITY IN DEVELOPING ITS INPUT TO THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

ISSUE: Acceptance of federal UASI grant funds in the amount of \$540,000 to assist the City in the development of its part of a Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the funds provided to develop the deliverables identified in the subgrant agreement; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Fiscal Year 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program Urban Areas Security Initiative Program (UASI) provides financial assistance via grants to large urban areas to assist them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, respond to and recover from threats or acts of terrorism.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) is a recipient of a UASI Program grant. The NVRC is distributing the funds to subgrantees to expand the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) in the Northern Virginia region. Subgrantees include the City of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties.

The MMRS is a program designed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The program enables local governments to prepare for the mass casualty consequences of a terrorist incident. There are approximately 130 cities across the U.S. that participate in the MMRS program.

The goal of the MMRS is to develop a local operational system capable of responding to chemical, radiological, nuclear, explosive, or biological event. The goal of MMRS is also to have localities to be self-sustaining for a period of 24 to 48 hours without Federal assistance. The development of the MMRS will involve many City agencies, the INOVA Hospital System, volunteer agencies, and others. The goal of the MMRS, when it is developed in the City, will be to create the capacity to respond to a chemical, radiological, nuclear or explosive event involving 1,000 patients, and a biological event involving 10,000 patients.

NVRC is providing funds, in the amount of \$540,000 to the City, to assist in the plan development, training, equipment purchase and supplies to include appropriate pharmaceuticals. The funds will be used reimburse the City and others for staff time devoted to this project, the cost of contractors if needed to perform some of the planning functions and the purchase of supplies and materials.

FISCAL IMPACT: The MMRS grant is designed to cover 100 percent of the cost of creating the system. City expenditures will be reimbursed upon completion of the deliverables. The City will have to evaluate the need to sustain any equipment and supplies purchased as a part of this grant program. In the past, grant funds have been made available to sustain these efforts in other cities.

STAFF:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief